

REMARKS

Claims 1-36 are pending. Claims 1, 13, 19, 23, 24, 35, and 36 are amended. Applicant appreciates the Examiner's allowance of claim 34.

Claim 19 was rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 112, second paragraph.

Claim 19 has been amended to depend from claim 18 as suggested by the Examiner.

Claims 1-3, 8, 9, 13-15, 20, 21, 23-26, and 31 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as anticipated by U.S. patent no. 5,303,734 to Eidsmore (Eidsmore '734).

Independent claims 1, 13, 23, and 24 refer to a resilient element that urges a pressure sensor element toward a first position in which a flow path is released or open. These claims have been amended to require that the resilient element be accommodated within the space enclosed by the plunger and chamber. This language previously appeared in dependent claims 5, 17, and 28, which were described as allowable.¹ Eidsmore '734 does not disclose or suggest the required resilient element. Accordingly, Applicant submits that the rejection of claims 1-3, 8, 9, 13-15, 20, 21, 23-26, and 31 has been overcome.

Claims 35 and 36 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as anticipated by U.S. patent no. 5,033,505 to Eidsmore (Eidsmore '505).

Eidsmore '505 describes a pressure regulator having a chamber 92 with a pressure charge.² Chamber 92 is located within a bellows 70 connected to a disc 82.³ A stem clip 110 is attached to disc 82.⁴ Stem clip 110 flexes in response to movement of disc 82 and can limit movement of disc 82.⁵ Additionally, bellows 70 has a spring rate that can modify regulator movement.⁶

In contrast to the Eidsmore '505 regulator, claim 35 recites a regulator having a movable wall connected to a valve for regulating the pressure based only on a difference between the pressure within a fluid path and the pressure within a sealed chamber. The movable wall (a)

¹ Office Action, page 4.

² Eidsmore '505, col. 4, lines 29-43 and FIG. 1.

³ Id., col. 4, lines 13-21.

⁴ Id., col. 4, lines 55-62.

⁵ Id., col. 4, line 62 to col. 5 line 5.

⁶ Id., col. 6, lines 17-20.

moves to the closed position when the pressure within the fluid path rises above the pressure within a sealed chamber of the regulator and (b) moves to the open position when the pressure within the fluid path falls below the pressure within the sealed chamber. Applicants submit that stem clip 110 flexing against disc 82 and the spring rate of bellows 70 would modify the pressure at which the Eidsmore '505 regulator opens and closes. Accordingly, Eidsmore '505 does not anticipate claim 35.

Claim 36 recites a regulator having a movable wall. The position of the movable wall with respect to a housing is determined by a sum of axial forces resulting from the pressure within a fluid path and the pressure within a sealed chamber acting upon the movable wall. The movable wall (a) moves to the closed position when the pressure within the fluid path rises above the pressure within a sealed chamber of the regulator and (b) moves to the open position when the pressure within the fluid path falls below the pressure within the sealed chamber. In view of the foregoing, Eidsmore '505 does not anticipate claim 36.

Claims 4, 11, 12, 16, 27, and 32-33 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Eidsmore '734.

As discussed above, Eidsmore '734 does not disclose or suggest independent claims 1, 13, 23, and 24 from which claims 4, 11, 12, 16, 27, and 32-33 depend. Accordingly, claims 4, 11, 12, 16, 27, and 32-33 are submitted to be patentable over Eidsmore '734.

Claims 6, 7, 18, 19, 29, and 30 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Eidsmore '734 in view of Salter.

It is submitted that no combination of Eidsmore '734 and Salter discloses or suggests independent claims 1, 13, 23, and 24 from which claims 6, 7, 18, 19, 29, and 30 depend. Accordingly, claims 6, 7, 18, 19, 29, and 30 are submitted to be patentable over the cited art.

Claims 10 and 22 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Eidsmore '734 in view of Rogers.

It is submitted that no combination of Eidsmore '734 and Rogers discloses or suggests independent claims 1 and 13 from which claims 10 and 22 depend. Accordingly, claims 10 and 22 are submitted to be patentable over the cited art.

Applicant : Jaap Herman van't Hoff
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Page : 16 of 16

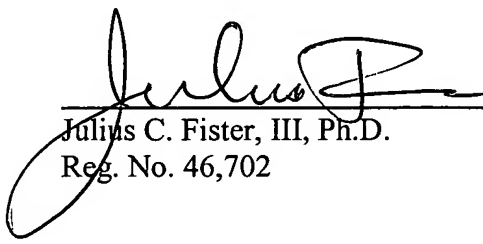
Attorney's Docket No.: 17042-002001

Enclosed is a \$120.00 check for the Petition for Extension of Time fee. Please apply any other charges or credits to deposit account 06-1050.

Respectfully submitted,

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Julius C. Fister, III, Ph.D.
Reg. No. 46,702

Fish & Richardson P.C.
225 Franklin Street
Boston, MA 02110
Telephone: (617) 542-5070
Facsimile: (617) 542-8906

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